

Animal Welfare (Responsibility for Dog Attacks) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

CONTENTS

- 1 Amendment of the Animal Welfare Act 2006
- 2 Extent, commencement and short title

[AS INTRODUCED]

A

B I L L

TO

Amend the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to require a person in charge of a dog to take all reasonable steps to ensure that that dog does not fatally injure another dog; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Amendment of the Animal Welfare Act 2006

(1) The Animal Welfare Act 2006 is amended as follows.

(2) After section 8 (fighting etc.), insert—

“8A Fatal attacks by dogs on other dogs

- (1) A person in charge of a dog commits an offence if— 5
- (a) that dog fatally injures another dog, and
 - (b) the person has not taken such steps as are reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure that the dog of which they are in charge does not fatally injure another dog.
- (2) The circumstances to which it is relevant to have regard when applying subsection (1) include, in particular— 10
- (a) whether the dog that fatally injured another dog was under control, such as on a lead;
 - (b) whether the dog that was fatally injured, or another dog other than the dog that caused the fatal injury, initiated the aggression; 15
 - (c) whether a human, other than the person in charge of the dog, aggravated or taunted the responsible dog to such an extent that it caused the dog to attack another dog;
 - (d) in the event the dog that caused the fatal injury was responding to the provocation of another animal or human, whether the person who is responsible took reasonable steps to prevent the situation escalating; 20
 - (e) whether the dog that caused the fatal injury was known to have aggression and if so the steps taken to minimise any risks. 25

- (3) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (1) is liable—
 - (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or a fine or both;
 - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or a fine or both. 5

- (4) The chief of police of any police force must record information about offences under this section, including—
 - (a) the number of reports of such offences made to the police force, and
 - (b) details of those reports.” 10

2 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales.
- (2) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of three months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Animal Welfare (Responsibility for Dog Attacks) Act 2024. 15

Animal Welfare (Responsibility for Dog Attacks) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

A

B I L L

TO

Amend the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to require a person in charge of a dog to take all reasonable steps to ensure that that dog does not fatally injure another dog; and for connected purposes.

Presented by Anna Firth

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be
Printed, 11th December 2023.

© Parliamentary copyright House of Commons 2024

*This publication may be reproduced under the terms of the Open Parliament Licence, which is published at
www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright*

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS